



PERSPECTIVES

Goodbye idealism

It looks as if the Supreme Court is bound and determined to remove all of our personal freedoms by the deadline year of 1984.

First, it was the Stanford ruling (concerning search and seizure practices for newspapers). Then, it was the consideration of a ruling allowing police to stop drivers or pedestrians for no other reason than to check for proper identification.

Now, in a 5 to 4 decision, the Supreme Court has, in its great wisdom, determined that a car not belonging to or being leased by the driver at the time may be searched by police without a search warrant.

In its own words, the Supreme Court said an individual not owning or leasing the car in which he is an occupant does not have "a legitimate expectation of privacy" where searches are concerned, according to the Associated Press.

Agreed, the case involved here which led to the ruling involved suspects in an Illinois bank robbery, involving the discovery of weapons in a get-away vehicle such as a sawed off rifle and a box of shells, which could have been hazardous to the police involved had they not been found in the search in question.

But the outcome of this ruling means it could get a little tense if you were borrowing your roommate's car to get over to Moscow.

Imagine driving down that 8-mile road, anticipating a cold pitcher of beer at some worthy establishment.

Suddenly, you check your rear-view mirror, only to see it filled by the sudden appearance of blue lights.

Pulling over to the side of the road, you begin a frantic search for any controlled substances which your roommate might have hidden about the inside of the car.

Still swallowing rapidly when the police officer walks up to the car and asks for your registration, you attempt to explain quickly through a full mouth that you borrowed the car for a night in Moscow.

Asking you to step out of the car while he searches it, you suddenly remember that ounce of illegal substance your roommate always keeps in his glove box. Oh, well, you needed a few days of peace and quiet anyway, right? Where better to get it than in a Palouse jail?

You have just kissed your fourth amendment rights good-bye. You have lost your legitimate expectation of privacy, as pointed out by one of the dissenting judges on the Supreme Court.

Goodbye, idealism. Hello, police state.

— jim angell

To the editor Responding to double standard

I would like to respond to Mark Sutton's letter (Dec. 5) on "Double Standards". Mr. Sutton seems to find it strange that certain among us would respond to the opinion of the majority of students in one issue, and not in the next. I do find it interesting that he should assume it is the same people that are responding differently in the two issues.

He is of course right, at least in my case, and I would like to tell him why. The furor over the acquisition of a new cougar was not engendered by the opinion of the majority.

It was that men and women of conscience who were opposed to the caging of a live animal spoke out. Put positively, they were in favor of life and freedom. It so

happened that the majority opinion supported this view, and could be used by these people as a tool to counter the power of this school's president, who apparently did not favor these principles as strongly.

If it offends people that their votes be used simply as tools, I am sorry. It is a fact of representative democracy: I can only recommend that you learn and speak your consciences, rather than your minds. Then you will be heard as individuals.

I support the Gay Committee funding on the same two principles, life and freedom, as well as a third, the pursuit of peace.

These, reworded, are the same as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Do they sound fami-

liar? Sometimes one would wonder.

It so happens this time that the opinion to the majority does not agree with my view. This, however, sways me not, except toward pity and regret.

It is the responsibility of thinking people to oppose the opinion of the majority when that opinion runs contrary to these principles.

I applaud the representatives that are now under recall for having the courage to oppose the majority opinion, and to vote their consciences on this issue.

I hope this answers Mr. Sutton's question.

— albert tromposch

Request for funding new organization

I have a meaningful, loving relationship with my dog. Hence, as a spokesperson for a potential committee, I request monetary aid from ASWSU for the public education of a legitimate lifestyle — bestiality.

Such funding from the entire student body would enable us to educate everyone about the psychological and physical state of persons involved in such activity.

After all, people should learn about sexual preferences, and

we feel this should be reinforced with student monies, even without majority approval.

The beginnings of Bestiality/Sodomy Awareness are in the works.

Please support your ASWSU in funding the educational group which will attend dances, parties and bowling tournaments with you and your pet partner. Even if you do not support the funding, ASWSU will do it anyway.

Thank you.

Oh, and please withhold our names — we want to stay in the

closet where it will be more difficult to educate you.

— mammal fanciers

P.S. On a more serious note, I question why the assembly did not poll students this year concerning the funding of Gay Awareness. Our darling cougar rated a new survey — why didn't the homosexuals receive the same consideration?

Perhaps a majority (one way or the other) would not have affected the assembly's vote anyway.

— vicky ashby

Costly games being played

Hello. This letter pertains to some games which are occurring on campus which look like they could be fun.

The games I am referring to are being played by a few concerned students with the ASWSU Assembly.

Ever since the vote on gay funding took place the big game of "Who goes out" or "recall" has begun. In essence, this represents a fundamental check in our political system. If a constituent feels that a representative is blatantly misrepresenting his/her constituency then this process serves to correct this mistake.

I feel that if a given constituency wants to organize such a movement it is no business of the groups in power to impede it anyway.

Looking at the present state of

our campus political institution, I would normally be tempted to chuckle; yet I feel it could be a trifle more serious than it appears at first glance.

What these few students have done is to organize for all of us a drive to recall the people who voted against their views in the assembly.

I question the validity of such a move. If the desire is there it should be organized from within the representatives' constituency not as a blanket effort organized independent of the separate districts.

Secondly, one could look at the numbers involved in this recall drive — 14 out of 19 representatives. This type of bitching not only overtaxes the time employed in the political system, it flagrantly mocks the one check the public constituency has in its hands.

Finally, this movement is expensive. Mr./Ms. Angry Student, that's my money you're spending. If all you can do is cry over one issue than how the hell do you expect anything else to get done. We might as well elect one representative for every issue brought forth and not accomplish anything at all.

Well, I know I won't sign any of your petitions. I don't even know if I'll listen to your arguments any more.

It's gotten way past the point of an efficient government making a decision of a very debatable issue.

It's into the realm of some hot-headed people throwing a wrench into the whole thing which just screws it up for everybody.

— r.a. cbel

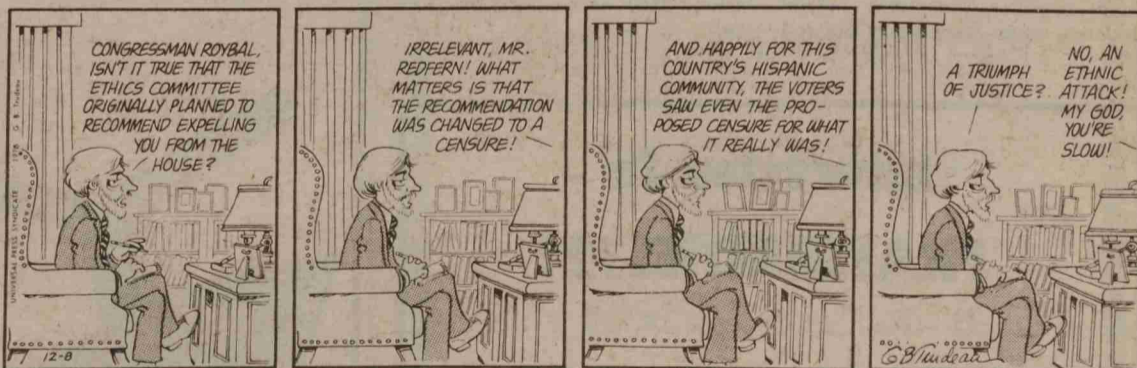
Problems of S.A. seen

Now that U of W has set an example by divesting itself of an irresponsible Apartheid-supporting corporation, it is time to renew our efforts to persuade our Regents to act like responsible adult human beings! I suggest that the Regents and whoever else is involved in making such decisions educate themselves on the actual situation in South Africa.

The film 'Last Grave at Dim-

baza' illustrates very factually the situation and the effect of American corporations in South Africa. For anyone interested, the film will be shown, free of charge, on the 3d floor of the Koinonia House, Sunday at 1:30 with discussion following. We have a responsibility to our fellow man, no matter what color his skin, or how far away he lives!

— mark painter



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